



THIS
IS THE
TASTE
OF
DEATH
.....!



HEH
HEH...

ざわ

.....

天

CHAPTER 152

CONSISTENCY

OR TO
PUT IT THE
OTHER WAY
AROUND...

I CAN'T HELP
THAT 5% OF ME
THAT WANTS TO
LIVE...!

EVEN
THOUGH
I'VE
DECIDED TO
DIE
.....

CAN BE
SWITCHED
ON OR OFF,
100%, BUT...

THIS
MACHINE

IT'S ALL
MIXED.

A CERTAIN
PERCENTAGE
OF A PERSON
WANTS TO
DIE...!

USUALLY
... EVEN
WHEN
THEY'RE
ALIVE

HUMANS
ARE A LOT
MORE
DIFFICULT
...!









IT ALLOWS
IT TO EMERGE
...!

THERE EXISTS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO
"LIFE"...

AND BY SEEKING
DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION



IT'S
WANTING TO
BE SAVED
WHEN IT
SEEMS LIKE
THEY'RE
GOING TO
DIE...!

IT ISN'T
WANTING
TO DIE.

IN
SHORT
...



A
PERSON'S
CURRENT
"LIFE"....!



WHAT I
MEAN IS, IT'S
NOT REALLY
SEEKING
DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION

THE
PLEASURE
... OF
MAKING IT
THROUGH

WHAT THEY
SEEK IS THIS
SALVATION...

BUT...



HEH
HEH
HEH
...



THAT'S WHAT
THE THRILL
GENERALLY IS.

WELL, I
WOULDN'T
DENY IT
...!

BUT...
IS THAT
TRULY
ALL IT
IS...?



I
WONDER
.....?



WHEN YOU
BET A LOAD
OF CASH ON
A LONG SHOT
...

WHEN YOU
STEP ON THE
GAS IN A
GAME OF
CHICKEN...

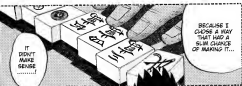






I
SOMETIMES
WENT THE
OTHER WAY
.....!

ALTHOUGH
THEY
PLAYED
TO HAVE A
GOOD
CHANCE AT
WINNING



IT
DIDNT
MAKE
SENSE
.....!

BECAUSE I
CHOOSE A WAY
THAT HAD A
SLIM CHANCE
OF MAKING IT...



HEH
HEH
HEH
...

THEY
WERE
CONFUSED
.....!

CLEARLY
.....!









THAN THIS
WATER AND
WHISKEY!

NOT MUCH
DIFFERENT



EVEN
THOUGH
I
ALWAYS
DRINK IT
WITH
WATER

JUST



IT'S JUST AN
UNPLEASANT
FEELING...

OFF-
PUTTING...



IT'S
A BIT

IF IT'S A
STRAIGHT
SHOT-WALT
THE NEXT
TIME





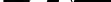
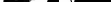
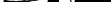
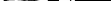
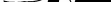
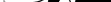
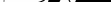
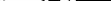
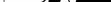
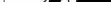
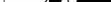
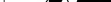
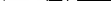
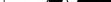
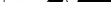
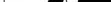
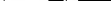
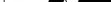
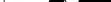
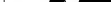
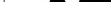
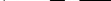
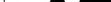
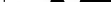
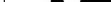
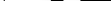
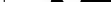
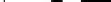
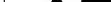
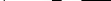
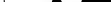
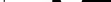
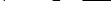
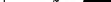
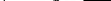
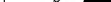
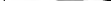
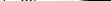
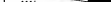
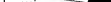
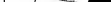
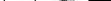
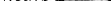
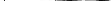
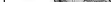
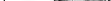
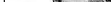
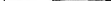
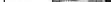
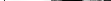
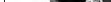
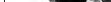
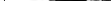
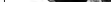
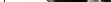
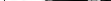
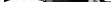
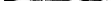
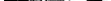
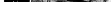
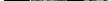
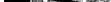
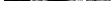
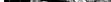
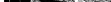
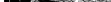
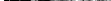
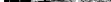
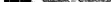
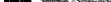
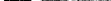
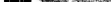
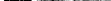
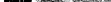
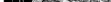
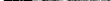
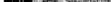
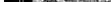
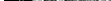
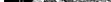
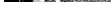
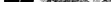
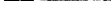
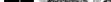
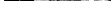
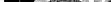
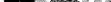
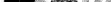
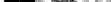
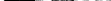
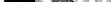
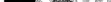
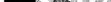
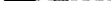
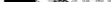
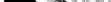
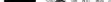
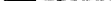
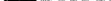
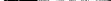
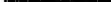
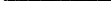
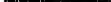
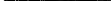
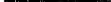
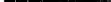
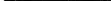
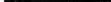
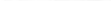
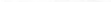
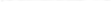
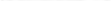
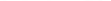
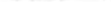
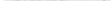
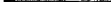












RIGHT
NOW,
YOU'RE
BARELY
LIVING
....!







ざわ...

ざわ...

.....
.....

天

CHAPTER 153
.....
COFFIN













A PERSON'S
LIFE SHINES
WHEN THEY
WIN.

AT FIRST,
"SUCCESS" WAS
SOMETHING
MEANINGFUL.

.....



BUT DESPITE
THAT, WHAT
I'M SAYING
NOW IS...

AT FIRST, THE
SPARKLE OF
"LIFE" AND
SUCCESS...
WERE
CONNECTED...



WELL...











ALL YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS HAND ON TO YOUR MONEY AND FOLLOWERS...

THE FACT IS, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, DO YOU...?

I DON'T ENVY YOU THAT AT ALL...



YOU DON'T KNOW...!

WHAT'S GOING ON...?



IT'S A MISERABLE LIFE...!



CAN YOU CALL THAT LIVING...?

WHAT YOU HAVE...!



ききき...

IT'S A
COFFIN
...!



ALREADY
YOU
CAN'T
MOVE...

TO YOUR
SATISFACTION
...!

YOU
CAN'T
MOVE...



YOU'RE
INSIDE
THE
COFFIN

OF YOUR
"SUCCESS"
...!



















AKAGI...

YOU JUST
MIGHT BE
RIGHT

A GOOD
SENSE
OF
JUDGEMENT

YOU'VE
GOT
GUTS
THE
SENTH
SENSE



HEH
HEH

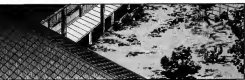












天

CHAPTER 154

BREAK
THROUGH









HE...
WON'T CHANGE
HIS MIND THAT
EASILY...!













IT'S
POSS-
IBLE
...



IF
THAT'S
WHAT'S
GOING
ON...

さあ...

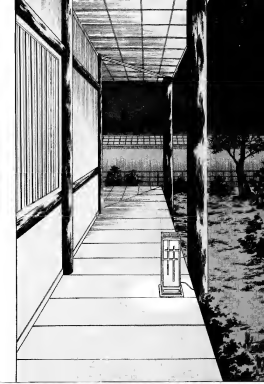


IF WE CAN
MAKE HIM
OPEN HIS
EYES...

"HE DESIRES,
"I WANT TO
LIVE"...

IT'S IN HIS
SUBCONSCIOUS
...











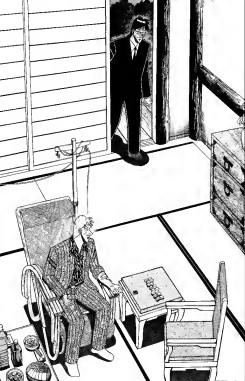


A
WAY
TO
STOP

...



AKAGI
SHIGERU
...!





THEIR
FINAL
MEETING



KANAMITSU,
KEIN, REACHIO



HEROYUKI

THE
7TH
PERSON
WAS



GINJI, SOGA,
HARADA





TEM AND
HIROYUKI
.....?

THERE
WERE
ONLY
TWO
LEFT



FAILED
TO
PERSUADE
HIM...?

ALL
SIX OF
THEM
...



HA
HA
HA
....!



YOU
HAVEN'T
SAID
ANYTHING
YET...

COME ON,
WHAT'S
WRONG?



HEH
HEH
HEH
...

.....
.....
.....





LET HIM
DIE...!

I JUST
CAN'T
.....!



TO
MAKE
HIM

WHAT
DO I
SAY

SEE



WHAT
DO I
SAY TO
CONVINCE
HIM

BUT
.....

HESITATE
...?





WHAT SHOULD
I SAY...?



TO MAKE
HIM
CHANGE
HIS MIND
...?





天
CHAPTER 155

A BAD HABIT

THIS
MAN'S
WILL
...!



IT'S NO
GOOD IF
YOU STAY
SILENT...

COME
ON...!



ANYTHING
WILL DO...

NOTHING'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN

SAY
SOME-
THING



HEH
HEH
HEH
...







WELL,
HERE
WE ARE
.....



HEH
HEH
HEH
...

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO...



HEH
HEH
HEH
...

?



IT'S JUST
LIKE THE
END OF A
SHOGI
GAME...

PHEW
...



WHEN YOU CAN'T
FIGURE OUT HOW TO
MAKE A PROPER
START, YOU CAN'T
MAKE A SINGLE
MOVE....

BUT...











I'LL JUST
HAVE TO
STAY ALIVE,
WON'T I...!?

































FOR
THE
LAST
NINE
YEARS,
TOO
.....

THAT'S
WHAT'S
BEEN
HOLDING
YOU BACK
.....

A
BAD
HABIT
.....!

THINKING
THAT IT HAS
TO GO AS
PLANNED...
THAT WAY OF
THINKING IS

HUH
...?



URGH
.....!



DOES
HE
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT
....!

HOW
.....?

ざわ...

天

CHAPTER 156

HURT







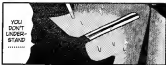
















YOU'RE
THE KIND
OF PERSON
THAT CAN DO
ANYTHING
.....!



HEH
HEH
...

.....
.....



EVEN IF
THAT'S
TRUE

AN
ABILITY
LIKE
THAT...



BUT...



YES
.....!

AM I
.....?







AN
ANNOY-
ANCE
...

DON'T THINK
OF IT LIKE
THAT...
BEING HURT
IS... LIKE...

THAT'S
WHAT
IT IS
.....



TO BE
HURT
...!

IS THAT
SO BAD
.....?

HUH
...?



BUT...

WHAT YOU
SAY MIGHT
BE TRUE.
HEAD...!



THAT'S
WHAT I
ALWAYS
THOUGHT
...!



NOT A
BAD
THING
AT ALL
...!

IT'S
NOT A
BAD
THING
.....



BEING
"HURT" IS
THE BASIS
FOR A
MIRACLE
...

IT'S THE
FIRST
STEP
.....!



IS NOW
YOU CAN
TELL
YOU'RE
ALIVE...

BEING
IN PAIN

MOST
OF
ALL
...





THEY
DON'T
LIVE AN
EASY
LIFE
.....!



WHO
WASNT A
LOSER AT
THE START
.....!

THERE
ISNT A
SINGLE
WINNER
...



IN
THE
END
...

.....



NONE OF
THEM DO
.....!



IS ONLY
WHAT
CAN BE
SEEN.

ULTIMATELY
...
WINNING
AND
LOSING
.....



DONT
DECIDE...













THAT'S
IT...!







JUST LET
YOURSELF
BECOME A
WORTHLESS
PERSON...!



PHEW
...

AKASHI
.....



URGH
...?



TO
YOU
HERO
...!

TODAY
.....



THAT'S
THE ONLY
THING
I WANTED
TO SAY
.....







天

CHAPTER 157

LUXURIES





WELL....
START
PADDLING
.....!



AWAY FROM
THAT SO-CALLED
"PROPER" AND
TOWARDS YOUR
LIFE...!













THE FIRE...
THAT YOU
ACT WITH

IS JUST...
WHAT
YOU DO...

LIVING...



YOU'LL
AMOUNT
TO SOME-
THING...!



UNDER-
STAND
...?



DON'T AIM FOR SUCCESS.....
ISN'T WHAT I'M SAYING.....!





TO BE
THIRD-
RATE
....!

DON'T
BE
AFRAID
....!

SO...
IT
DOESN'T
AT ALL

IT
DOESN'T
MAKE
ANY
DIFFERENCE

THAT'S
EXCELLENT

IF YOU'RE
A THIRD-RATE
WITH THAT
SMACK

URGH
....!

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.....!

DON'T BE AFRAID
OF FAILURE.....!

















OH
HEH

HEH
...?



EVEN
THIS
LITTLE
THING

WE'RE
RESTRICTED
AREN'T WE



STEPPING
INTO THE
COURTYARD
WITHOUT
SHOES ON

IT'S A
BIG
DEAL



I
WOULDN'T
DO IT
NORMALLY



BUT JUST
NOW I
WENT AHEAD
AND DID IT
ANYWAY



WE'RE
RESTRICTED
BY

EVEN
THIS IS
SOMETHING



OR SO THAT
WHEN WE GO
BACK TO THE
CORRIDOR, IT
DOESN'T GET
DIRTY, AND
SO ON...

THE
ANSWER
WOULD BE
SO THAT
OUR BOOKS
DON'T GET
DIRTY...

IF WE WERE
TO ASK WHY
WE CAN'T DO
THIS

BUT
AT THE
START

THAT'S
WHAT IT
WOULD
BE.



SO

IF THE
FEELING
MOVES
ME...

WE COULD
JUST PAY
FOR IT TO
BE CLEANED
...!

IF WE
DO
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT

BUT...



I'LL
JUST
WALK

HOWEVER
WRONG IT
MAY BE...!

I'LL
JUST
KEEP
WALKING



BUT THAT'S
SOMETHING
I CAN'T DO
VERY WELL...

KEEP
ON GOING,
WITHOUT
CONSTRAINTS.

EVEN THIS
LITTLE
THING...







THAT IT'S
A LUXURY

SHHHHH



AND SUCCESS
AND FAILURE

SHHHHH

WHAT
OTHERS
THINK

THAT I
SHOULD
GET AWAY
FROM

SHHHHH



ABOUT
JUST BEING
ALIVE...!

SHHHHH



THAT
LIFE IS...

SHHHHH





THIS
MAN

.....
AND I
.....!



TO AKAGI
SHIGERU,
TOO.....!

LIVED THE
OPPOSITE
LIFE...





ABOUT
JUST
BEING
ALIVE
...?

LIFE IS...

天

CHAPTER 151

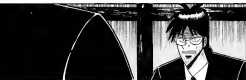
DEAD END

























IN THE
END...

EVEN IF THEY'RE
THINGS THAT I
KEPT WORKING
HARD TO BUILD...



AN
UNSOLVABLE
PUZZLE
.....



AND

EVEN IF
I LEFT
IT...

A DILEMMA.
TWO THOUGHTS
WARING WAR
AGAINST EACH
OTHER...



I DON'T
WANT TO
LOSE IT
.....

IT
DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE
...

EVEN THOUGH
I'M LEADING A
LIFE WITHOUT
FREEDOM





THAT MAN
LET GO OF
THEM ALL...
ONE AFTER
ANOTHER

ALL THE GOOD
THINGS
IN LIFE...

MONEY,
STATUS...
FAME...



ALL HE EVER
HAD WITH HIM
WAS JUST ENOUGH
MONEY TO TAKE
CARE OF HIMSELF...

TAKING
THE SHARPE
MINIMUM...

EMPTY-
HANDED

HE
ALWAYS
HAD
NEXT TO NOTHING

AND ONLY
HIMSELF...
THAT WAS
IT...



THAT HE'S GOING
TO THROW AWAY
WHAT'S LEFT OF
HIMSELF.....!

TODAY,
HE SAYS

AND

I
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND

IT'S NOT
NORMAL
...



A black and white manga panel. In the background, a man with a large, spiky afro hairstyle, wearing sunglasses and a suit, looks towards the right. In the foreground, a man with dark hair and a suit looks back at him with a surprised expression. A speech bubble from the man in the background contains the text "A MAN WHO NEVER BOTHERED TO PILE THINGS UP AROUND HIM.....". A speech bubble from the man in the foreground contains the text "ONLY THAT MAN!".

A MAN
LIKE
AKAGI...

A MAN
WHO NEVER
BOTHERED
TO PILE THINGS
UP AROUND
HIM.....

ONLY
THAT
MAN
....!





THE
ONLY
THING
THEY
COULD
DO WAS
LEAVE
UP IT TO
HIM...!

THE
LAST
MAN
....!





THE LAST MAN

...



WAS THIS
MAN'S
ABILITY TO
PERSUADE
HIM...!



ALL
THEY
COULD
PLACE
THEIR
BET
ON



THIS
MAN...

WHETHER OR
NOT HE COULD
STOP HIS
SUICIDE...



AKAGI'S
LIFE OR
DEATH

IT
WAS
ALL
UP
TO
TEN
...!





IT
WOULD
BE
SETTLED
...



BE
SETTLED
...

IN ONLY
A SHORT
WHILE,
IT WOULD
INEVITABLY
...

THE
CONCLUSION
TO THIS
UNPRECE-
DENTED
ALL-NIGHT
VIGIL...!

THE
MATTER
OF
AKAGI'S
LIFE OR
DEATH
.....!

